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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Progress report on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Background

1. Reviewing the follow-up actions taken for the recent series of conferences and summits, the Economic and Social Council recognized the importance of basic indicators and statistics both for the formulation of effective development policies and for monitoring progress towards priority goals. At a special meeting of the Council held on 10 and 11 May 1999 dedicated exclusively to basic indicators, the Council discussed an analytical report on indicators (E/1999/11) that had been prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders at the national and international levels. The main findings of the report can be summarized as follows: (a) there is a serious lack of relevant and timely development information: this problem needs to be addressed through statistical capacity-building at the national level; and (b) in some areas, there exists a problem of inconsistency among data disseminated by different agencies at the international level: this problem needs to be addressed through better coordination in the production and dissemination of indicators.

2. At its substantive session of 1999, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1999/55 of 30 July 1999 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, which included a section (II) related to basic indicators. In particular, in that resolution the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the implementation of that section for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2000. Council resolution 1999/55 addressed the following five themes: (a) networking and exchange of relevant information and metadata, (b) further development of indicators for means of implementation, (c) harmonization and rationalization of conference indicators, (d) identification of a limited number of common indicators and (e) mobilization of resources to support national statistical capacity-building in developing countries and coordinate statistical capacity-building programmes. The present report takes up these five themes one by one and describes progress achieved with respect to each.

II. Networking and exchange of relevant information and metadata

3. The United Nations Statistics Division has played an active role in promoting networking among relevant institutions with regard to statistics and basic indicators. In particular, the United Nations Statistics Division has used its dual role as the secretariat to both the Statistical Commission and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities to facilitate the exchange of information and metadata among national and international institutions. Moreover, the Statistics Division is actively pursuing information on indicator programmes and initiatives undertaken by the various relevant agencies.

4. In order to engage national experts, the United Nations Statistics Division presented at the thirty-first (2000) session of the Statistical Commission a detailed report on the aforementioned Economic and Social Council resolution dealing, *inter alia*, with basic indicators and its implications for the work of the Statistics Division (E/CN.3/2000/15). In particular, the Director of the Statistics Division reported on the shift in the priorities of the divisional work programme which was reflected in the creation within the Office of the Director, of the Statistical Development and Analysis Section. The Section's primary function is to follow up on the Council mandate and in particular: (a) to work with other international organizations in the harmonization of common indicators, (b) to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the statistical requirements created by the monitoring needs of the recent international conferences and summits and (c) to support statistical capacity-building in order to assist countries in routinely producing the relevant data. The Statistical Commission agreed with the proposed programme of activities for the newly created section, including its outreach efforts and the support for national statistical capacity-building programmes.

5. The ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, which is presently chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), is the most effective forum for networking and information exchange, as all the major stakeholders, including the Bretton Woods institutions, are members and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) are represented as observers. At the thirty-

third session (September 1999) of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, the United Nations Statistics Division briefed the Subcommittee on Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/55 (document SA/1999/9). Through its work on a number of regular agenda items, such as data-sharing and standards for data quality, the Subcommittee is expected to provide continued support for the implementation of the Council resolution. In addition, the Subcommittee agreed (E/CN.3/2000/19) to work with the United Nations Statistics Division on an indicator web page that would serve as a basis for further harmonization and rationalization of basic indicators (see also sect. IV).

III. Means of implementation

6. The conference goals will have to be attained mostly through domestic policies and resources. In many countries, these need to be supplemented by well-targeted official development assistance (ODA). The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD continues to monitor the volume and distribution of ODA and private flows from its 23 members. In 1998, these flows recovered by nearly 10 per cent in real terms from their all-time low in 1997. (The figures for 1999 will be published in June 2000.) However, at some 0.24 per cent of DAC members' combined gross national product (GNP), they remain well below their long-term average of 0.33 per cent maintained from 1970 to 1992; a share of approximately one third goes to least developed countries.

7. According to the comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/13-E/CN.5/2000/2), some Governments have made significant efforts to increase ODA since the Summit (1995). Others reported their commitment to have increased their percentage by the year 2000, although only a few of them have taken concrete steps or adopted timetables to fulfil the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP.

8. Efforts have been made to measure the flow of assistance towards the implementation of the goals of recent conferences and summits. Summaries of the reports related to the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development are reported in annex I. These reports demonstrate that the agendas of the recent United Nations conferences have been reflected in the priorities of donor countries and organizations. Issues such as poverty eradication, employment, environment, health and population issues, the advancement of women, democracy and human rights, agriculture and food security, and humanitarian assistance have represented the core of development cooperation from 1994 to 1999.

9. While all three reports are informative with respect to the development assistance provided by donors, they also reflect some of the difficulties with respect to quantifying the assistance received in relation to specific topics such as women-specific projects and basic social services. There are problems of coverage (for example, only 74 countries replied to the query about the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development) and lack of a common reporting system that would allow for a clear and effective monitoring. Similar problems emerged during an attempt made by the United Nations Statistics Division to quantify the global assistance provided for statistical programmes (see box).

10. DAC has refined its systems that record assistance provided by purpose, including the use of "markers" to indicate projects that promote gender equality or basic social services. These systems are being used to prepare a report for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Social Summit for Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", to be held in Geneva in June 2000, that shows the proportion of DAC commitments of ODA that are directed at improving basic social services in developing countries. DAC publications are also being used to show, for example, the proportion of aid that goes to the countries farthest away from attaining the conference goals and how much goes into the sectors most relevant to such social goals as education, health and reproductive health.[1]

11. The outcomes of the major global conferences also contain certain commitments relating to finance, trade, technology and external debt. Furthermore, they stress the need for coherence in the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development. The mobilization of financial resources for the full implementation of the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits will be in the

An attempt to measure technical assistance in statistics

Upon the request of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination (E/CN.3/1997/19, para. 36), a questionnaire requesting information on statistical technical cooperation was sent by the United Nations Statistics Division in 1996 to 25 donor countries, 25 international donor organizations and 158 recipient countries as well as 4 countries that had been grouped as both donors and recipients. Thirty-three donor countries and organizations responded. In addition, 41 developing countries and countries with economies in transition also responded.

Twelve donors and 27 recipient countries supplied values of technical assistance provided and received. (Some donor countries and organizations provided substantial descriptive material of their technical assistance activities without value indicators.) Therefore, value figures of technical assistance provided were by no means to be considered complete and accurate (E/CN.3/1997/18, para. 6). See United Nations Statistics Division web page (*http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/statcom/docs/edoc18.htm*). The fact that most recipient countries that responded provided only sporadic value figures for certain statistical projects and only for some years made it difficult to analyse the situation.

agenda of the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development to be held in 2001 as agreed by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session in December 2000 (Assembly resolution 54/196 of 22 December 1999, adopted by consensus). This event will involve political decision-makers at least at the ministerial level who will discuss issues relating to financing for development in a holistic manner in the context of globalization and interdependence. (*http://www.un.org/esa/analysis/ffd*)

12. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development recommended that the event should cover the following themes:[2] domestic financial resources; international resources: trade, foreign direct investments and other private flows; international financial cooperation for development, including ODA and debt relief; enhancing coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development and avoidance of international financial crisis and excessive financial volatility, and enhancing effective participation and integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the global economic system, including through capacity-building; and special needs of Africa, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries, and other developing countries with special difficulties in attracting financing for development. The Assembly, in its resolution 54/196 of 22 December 1999, established an intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and a 15-member Bureau to organize preparatory consultations.

IV. Harmonization and rationalization of conference indicators

13. Work on an indicator web page (see para. 5) has started. The web page will contain metadata on all conference indicators produced and disseminated by international organizations. The information contained in the web page for each indicator will cover the main descriptive characteristics of the indicator (name, definition, sub-classifications, lead agency) as well as an indication of the underlying data-collection and dissemination processes (questionnaires, frequency, data availability, data-sharing and dissemination mechanisms). Once the web page is completed it is expected to serve a dual purpose: (a) it will function as an entry point into the universe of conference indicators providing users with a first overview of existing indicators; (b) by putting all the relevant indicator information together in one place, the web

page will constitute an analytical tool with which to identify overlap, inconsistencies and gaps.

14. The United Nations Statistics Division has produced and tested a pilot version of the web site. After consultations with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities in September 1999, the format was finalized. In order for the web page to be both informative and effective as an analysis tool, it is essential to obtain the active cooperation of all relevant institutions. The United Nations Statistics Division is at present soliciting inputs from all leading international agencies that are producing and disseminating conference indicators.

15. An essential step in the direction of harmonization is agreement on standards and methods for basic statistics as well as for indicators. The Statistical Commission works continuously to reach international agreements on statistical measurements. Some examples are the System of National Accounts[3] and the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses[4] which provide common standards widely used in the collection and dissemination of economic and sociodemographic data.

16. Methodological work has been initiated in the development of standards for measuring such issues highlighted by the recent conferences and summits as poverty and the informal sector. Although conceptual and practical difficulties remain in these fields, the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics and the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics[5] are working on these issues and have presented their progress reports to the Statistical Commission (see E/CN.3/2000/16, annex; and E/CN.3/2000/9, annex, sect. II, respectively).

17. Another noteworthy development in this context is the work on data quality initiated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with the support of the United Nations Statistics Division. The objective is to establish a common understanding of the notion of data quality, both at the national and at the international level. Through the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and its companion General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS), IMF intends to encourage improvements in data quality and to provide information that would facilitate data users' assessment of quality according to their own needs.[6]

18. An important consideration in this regard is the need to ensure that official statistics are not used erroneously. In considering the possible use of particular statistics as indicators, it is important that their appropriateness, particularly in terms of definition and accuracy, be taken fully into account. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Statistical Commission can advise on the appropriateness of the use of particular statistics when necessary.

19. With respect to reducing reporting burden of member States, efforts have been made to reduce data requests by international organizations. As a result of inter-agency coordination, questionnaires have been consolidated and eliminated in the areas of trade statistics[7] and national accounting.[8]

V. Identification of a limited number of commonly used indicators

20. An important tool for the harmonization and rationalization of basic indicators in the medium and long run is the identification of a limited number of common indicators, based on those currently accepted and widely used by member States. Establishing agreement on such a limited set is expected to significantly lessen the data provision burden currently placed on member States. More importantly, it will help to focus national statistical capacity-building efforts. However, it is clear that any core set of indicators will always have the character of a minimum set that will have to be augmented in view of the particular national, regional and substantive policy concerns.

21. Work on the various existing indicator lists has progressed over the past year and there is a tendency towards convergence. The common country assessment (CCA) indicator framework, developed by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)[9] as the most recent and most comprehensive indicator framework following United Nations conferences and summits, is now being used by United Nations funds and programmes in over 100 countries. This worldwide effort will produce a wealth of practical experience at the country level on the validity of the indicator list and will help to address some of the concerns voiced by countries.[10] The efforts of the United Nations Statistics Division in this area are motivated by the desire to gain a better understanding of the capabilities of the existing national statistical systems so as to respond to the national and international users and to absorb new requests for data.

22. The United Nations Statistics Division together with UNDG will be analysing the lessons learned from the CCA indicator experience. In particular, both bodies are working with a selected number of countries to assess the following: (a) to what extent the national statistical system is involved in the CCA indicator effort and what the impacts are of the CCA indicator requirements on the national statistical system; (b) which indicators are being used; (c) what the data gaps are; (d) how the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)-CCA indicator process is related to other policy processes (for example, IMF/World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategies for countries qualifying for enhanced debt relief); and (e) what targeted programmes are being proposed to address the lack of data or data quality. It is intended to feed back these country experiences into future review processes of the CCA indicator framework in order to design an indicator list that is both useful and implementable.

23. The DAC indicators were discussed at a Forum on Development Progress, co-chaired by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, and jointly sponsored by the United Nations, OECD, the World Bank and IMF, in March 2000. A core set of indicators for the international development goals was agreed to.[11] These 21 indicators now include updated indicators for the environment. Most of the indicators are also included in the present set used in the United Nations common country assessments. In fact, the CCA indicator framework — anticipating revisions in the DAC environmental indicators — includes a provision for further review of environmental indicators, in order to maintain the concordance between the two indicator sets.

24. The Commission on Sustainable Development's five-year work programme on indicators of sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/18, annex I), approved by the Commission at its third session in 1995 with the goal of developing a core set of indicators and related methodologies, will be presented for endorsement to the Commission at its ninth session in 2001. An initial working list of 134 indicators and related methodologies was tested in 22 countries according to countries' own priorities and goals for sustainable development. Based on analysis of the testing results and extensive review of the development in other international indicators sets such as the UNDG-CCA and United Nations/OECD DAC/Worldbank/IMF indicators, a core set of 59 indicators of sustainable development and related methodologies is currently being finalized as a tool to support national-level decision-making. The core set of indicators is based on the policy priorities reflected in Agenda 21[12] covering the economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainable development. In particular, this core set of indicators takes into account the need to ensure adequate coverage of environmental issues where this had been lacking in the CCA list of indicators.

25. There has been a high level of coordination and collaboration, both inside and outside the United Nations system, on the work on sustainable development indicators including a three-year programme launched by OECD in 1998; the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat was represented in a meeting in December 1999 to share results and experiences arising from the programme. By mid-2001, OECD intends to elaborate data frameworks for sustainable development based on the principles of economic accounting.

VI. Statistical capacity-building

26. The data needs identified by the recent United Nations conferences and summits and their five-year assessments have fostered a constructive discussion on the importance of statistical capacity-building among national and international organizations. There is an increasing awareness of the importance of directing statistical assistance towards addressing national needs and supporting sustainable statistical programmes. In particular, donor and recipient countries are promoting the development of country-driven statistical development plans.[13] The advantage of these plans is that external technical assistance needs can be identified within the objectives expressed by national priorities.

27. The Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session in March 1999 endorsed the "practical guidelines for good technical cooperation in statistics"[14] with a view to providing recommendations for improving technical cooperation within partnerships between donor and recipient organizations. The principles aim to help the stakeholders in technical cooperation programmes follow the best possible practices and to encourage countries to make optimal use of statistics. The Statistical Commission also discussed other aspects of

technical cooperation in statistics and emphasized that increased statistical capacity and capabilities to produce statistics in priority areas and the ability to sustain and develop systems and capabilities in the longer term[15] are among the main goals against which success of technical cooperation programmes should be measured.

28. With a view to mobilizing resources towards capacity-building and to encourage the coordination of statistical capacity-building programmes, the United Nations Secretariat, OECD, the World Bank and IMF jointly convened a meeting in November 1999, in which the President of the Economic and Social Council participated. The meeting brought together statisticians and policy makers from developing countries, bilateral funding agencies, and regional and international agencies. The main decisions of the meeting were:

(a) To create a consortium — **Par**tnership in Statistics for Development in the **21**st Century (PARIS21)[16] — to continue the dialogue to promote well-coordinated, effective initiatives so as to develop an evidence-based culture for setting and monitoring policy;

(b) To initiate statistical capacity-building programmes in countries qualifying for enhanced debt relief (heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC2)), as part of their Poverty Reduction Strategies, and to develop United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks or Comprehensive Development Frameworks in other countries.

29. The PARIS21 consortium now has over 100 members from developing countries, donor agencies and international organizations. The consortium shares global knowledge, best practices and encourages South-South cooperation in statistical capacity-building. It stresses the importance of countries' coordinating and determining their own statistical priorities and developing strategic statistical development plans linked to national development frameworks. Work on the first PARIS21 programme will start in July 2000. It will bring together a number of donors to engage policy makers, initially in HIPC2 countries, in determining the statistical and other information needs of their country's policy framework.

30. The United Nations Secretariat, United Nations funding and specialized agencies, and the Bretton Woods institutions have been active in a number of initiatives to support statistical capacity-building. Some examples of these initiatives are provided in annex II.

31. Despite the efforts of international organizations and bilateral donors, the resources engaged for statistical capacity-building are still insufficient to face the problems of data gaps and data quality. For example, some countries had to postpone their 2000 round of censuses for lack of resources[17] and others are trying to cope with the planned schedule but have not yet secured the necessary funding to undertake a successful census.

32. In order to mobilize national resources, awareness still needs to be raised among Governments on the importance of statistics for decision-making. At the international level, there is still a pressing need to increase the funding for statistical programmes through coordinated, coherent and sustainable approaches.[18]

33. Given the importance for countries of routinely producing data, international initiatives addressing data collection need to be coordinated with national statistical authorities and directed towards relieving the chronic and systematic problems of national statistical systems. Global initiatives launched to review the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits should be implemented with the objective of strengthening national statistical capacity rather than regarded as a simple exercise for obtaining the necessary data.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

34. As the production of good-quality statistics and indicators is a resource- and time-consuming exercise, it will take some time for the provisions contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/55 to be fully implemented. Nonetheless, some encouraging trends have already emerged in the past months. There is now widespread acceptance among international agencies of the need for better coordination. Existing frameworks are being carefully reviewed and re-examined and there is a trend towards greater harmonization. Mechanisms such as the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities are of crucial importance in this context. It is therefore indispensable that all international organizations — in particular those funds and programmes that play an important role in the follow-up of conferences at the country

level — participate actively in the ACC Subcommittee meetings.

35. Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/55 has also led to improved communication among the functional commissions on the topic of basic indicators. Further efforts may be envisaged such as the inclusion of a standing agenda item on indicators in all commissions, supported by the exchange of papers on indicators.

36. With regard to moving towards a core indicator set, the UNDAF-CCA indicator framework provides a unique basis to build upon (see annex III). It has the broadest scope of all existing indicator sets, as it is based on the outcome of all United Nations conferences and summits. However, the framework still has to be revisited and validated in close cooperation with national Governments and the specialized agencies.

37. The efforts at the international level to achieve better coordination will alleviate some of the problems related to basic indicators; however, the most pressing issue remains the lack of a sufficient development information infrastructure in many developing countries. Building national statistical capacity in line with national policy priorities is the only way to address this serious problem in the long run. The Economic and Social Council may therefore wish to reaffirm the importance of capacity-building and of effective resource coordination in this context.

Notes

[1] The United Nations, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are jointly publishing a new annual report entitled *A Better World for All: Progress towards the International Development Goals*. The first report, to be published at the end of June 2000, will be made available to all members of the Economic and Social Council. It shows progress towards achieving seven development goals building on the conferences and includes a section on the means of implementation.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 28* (A/54/28), para. 17.

[3] See *System of National Accounts, 1993* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4).

[4] See *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census, Rev.1*, Statistical Papers, No. 67/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/98.XVII.8).

[5] These topical groups are composed of experts from countries and international organizations and report regularly to the Statistical Commission.

[6] Reference material on data quality can be found at: http://dsbb.imf.org/dqrsdesc.htm.

[7] The United Nations Statistics Division and OECD have jointly written to 13 OECD member countries asking them to cease sending detailed trade data to the United Nations Statistics Division, as the Division will source the data by a copy of what the countries supply to OECD. The two agencies expect to expand this approach to all OECD countries. Similarly, the United Nations Statistics Division is working with IMF on the common sourcing of statistics of aggregate flows of international trade statistics.

[8] The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), OECD, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Statistics Division have agreed on a common questionnaire format and on a data-collection mechanism. As a result, each country will receive only one national accounts questionnaire and the collected information will subsequently be shared.

[9] See http://www.dgo.org.

[10] The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Working Group on Statistical Experts at its eleventh session in November 1999 noted, among other things, that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)-common country assessment (CCA) had by far the largest number of indicators. It expressed concern that some of the indicators were not methodologically robust; moreover, many were neither readily available nor needed for national requirements.

[11] OECD indicators for the international development goals: http://www.oecd.org/dac/Indicators/htm/list.htm.

[12] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[13] Examples of such plans are available for Mongolia and Palestine, and the "multi-annual integrated statistical programmes" whose development was stimulated by the European Union for countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States have served the same purpose.

[14] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4* (E/1999/24), para. 115 (a).

[15] See E/CN.3/1999/19, para. 8, and <http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/statcom/19-e.pdf>.

[16] See <www.paris21.org>.

[17] Examples are the United Republic of Tanzania, the Russian Federation, Armenia and Georgia.

[18] See Tony Williams and Kim Bradford Smith, "Statistics to shape the twenty-first century: the role of indicators", paper presented at the Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians, Gaborone, May 2000, para. 33.

Annex I

Flow of assistance as reflected in recent documents for conference follow-up

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of assistance provided for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development [c]

Presented at the thirty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development in March 2000

The total flow of funds from donor countries to support population programmes in developing countries has basically remained stable from 1996 to 1998 at about $2 billion with the lowest point in 1997 when the total assistance decreased to $1.96 billion. Preliminary estimates based on responses received to the questionnaire on 1998 resource flow show that in 1998 total international population assistance summed to $2.06 billion which represents only about 36 per cent of the $5.7 billion target agreed in Cairo for the year 2000.[e]

Donor countries contributed $1.5 billion (73 per cent); the World Bank made available $426 million (20.1 per cent) in the form of multi-year loans; other multilateral organizations and agencies reported $35 million (1.7 per cent) and private sources contributed $64 million (3 per cent). In comparison with 1997, the overall contribution of donor countries remained unchanged. However, of the 19 countries that reported 1998 figures, 13 increased their contributions, while 6 countries decreased funding levels.

Donor countries contributed to population assistance 3.18 per cent of their total official development assistance (ODA) in 1997. Preliminary indications are that in 1998, this percentage had declined, for the first time since

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action [a]

Presented at the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Difficulties have been faced in measuring the assistance provided for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.[d] From the available data and the replies of Member States to a questionnaire on this issue, it is not possible to undertake a comprehensive analysis of financial arrangements at national level. Fourteen international donor countries and five multilateral agencies provided information to the Secretariat on the extent to which the Beijing Platform for Action had impacted upon their institutional policies, budget processes and women-specific expenditures.

In terms of institutional policies, all international donor countries reported that the Platform for Action had a profound effect on their development assistance programmes. Several donors have revised their budget processes in line with recommendations of the Platform for Action. However, given the nature of gender as a cross-cutting issue, many countries were unable to quantify their contribution to gender-related assistance. Almost all countries and international organizations reported that, after Beijing, the mainstreaming of gender issues had been introduced in the design and implementation of all assistance programmes.

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development [b]

Presented at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development in February 2000 and at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives in April 2000

In general, the Summit succeeded in increasing the attention given to social development in development cooperation. International funding for social development seems to be very important in most countries, particularly developing countries whose national budgets are highly dependent on external assistance for social goals. In some countries, the percentage of public investment programmes addressed to basic social services financed by external donors reaches 80-90 per cent.

In some donor countries, the Summit contributed to a review of bilateral aid policies. The tendency is to concentrate on a few developing countries selected on the basis of degree of poverty, the quality of the country's social and economic policy and its quality of governance. Within this more reduced group of beneficiary countries, emphasis is placed on targeting aid towards the poor and the integration of the needs and interests of women, children and the elderly as part of the objective of combating social exclusion and promoting social integration.

The 20/20 initiative seems to have provided a useful indicative benchmark that focuses attention and channels a significant component of foreign aid towards social development. Seven donor countries reported expenditures

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of assistance provided for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development [c] *Presented at the thirty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development in March 2000*	*Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* [a] *Presented at the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"*	*Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development* [b] *Presented at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development in February 2000 and at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives in April 2000*

the International Conference on Population and Development, to 2.98 per cent. In relation to gross national product (GNP), donor countries spent in 1997, on average $72 per million dollars of GNP for population assistance, up from $61 per million dollars in 1996. The preliminary figure for 1998 shows a decrease to $68 per million dollars of GNP. The average dollar amount conceals the large variation between countries, from $5 to $435 per million dollars of GNP.

In reference to the expenditures of developing countries and countries in transition, in 1998 domestic government and non-governmental expenditures were estimated at $8.6 billion, a figure slightly higher than that for 1997. Despite improvements made by the countries in reporting these data, the estimates should be treated with caution because the data are far from complete and not entirely comparable. Many countries seem still unable to generate the necessary resources to finance their own national population programmes and to a very large extent are dependent on the international donor community to finance population activities.

on social development — broadly defined — of over 30 per cent of their aid budgets. However, some developing countries pointed out that the success of the strategy depended on the ability of the receiving Government to mobilize necessary and related resources, and the receiving Government does not always have this ability. The 20/20 initiative should also be seen against the background of declining ODA. An increase in the proportion of spending on the social sector does not by itself imply increased spending on basic social services.

[a] See E/CN.6/2000/PC/2 and corrigenda.

[b] See A/AC.253/13-E/CN.5/2000/2.

[c] See E/CN.9/2000/5 and Corr.1.

[d] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[e] Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (*Report of the United Nations Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex), para. 14.11.

Annex II

Ongoing activities directed towards statistical capacity-building (United Nations organizations and Bretton Woods institutions)

Organization	*Areas of specialization*	*Countries*	*Activities*
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	Population and housing census Environment statistics Trade statistics National accounts Classifications	Africa	• Regional workshops in collaboration with other United Nations organizations (United Nations Statistics Division) and donor countries (the Netherlands, France and the Republic of Korea). • Currently involved in — together with member States, multilateral and bilateral donors — a major exercise to evaluate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s; will lead to formulation of relevant and more focused statistical development strategies for integrated and coordinated development of statistics in Africa. The evaluation will be completed by September 2000.
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)	Population and housing census Human development and social reporting	Countries in transition Central and Eastern Europe Baltic States Commonwealth of Independent States	• Implementation of projects financed, for example, by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); • Provision of systematic training through a combination of workshops at subregional level, in-country training and study tours in crucial areas. • Project on population and housing censuses: objective to improve the capacity of national statistical offices in view of the 2000 round of censuses; specific topics dealt with were: census content, geographical information systems, data processing, post-data-collection activities, census evaluation and data dissemination. • Project on human development and social reporting: to improve the quality of social trends reporting; upgrade capacities of national statistical offices to collect, process, analyse and present statistics, and undertake household socio-economic surveys (household budget and labour-force surveys); strengthen capabilities to prepare national human development reports.
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	National accounts Social statistics Poverty statistics	Latin America and the Caribbean	• Acting as Secretary of the Conference of Statistics of the Americas, where international and regional cooperation is sponsored, coordinated and monitored (biennial programme of activities). • Provision of advisory services and organization of regional groups in order to reinforce technical capacity in areas where shortcomings are identified. • Joint ventures in difficult fields such as social statistics/poverty estimates, for example, the regional Programme for the Improvement of Surveys and the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI) project strengthens countries' capacity in the area of household surveys, including the indicators of social development that can be obtained from them. • Participation in Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (secretariat); the Canberra Group on Household Income Statistics; the Siena Group for Social Statistics;

Organization	*Areas of specialization*	*Countries*	*Activities*
			and the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics. • Production of the "Social Panorama", including analysis of social development and a very broad set of comparable social indicators for Latin American countries which are updated yearly.
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	National accounts Population and housing census Environment statistics Statistics on gender issues Poverty statistics Public sector computerization Statistical training	Asia and the Pacific	• Advisory services, workshops and various other technical meetings (for example, on national accounts, environmental data collection). • Implementation of several projects funded by UNDP, UNFPA, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and bilateral donors, securing active cooperation of various international and national organizations. • Improving statistics on gender issues: to promote the full integration of women in development; and help countries produce profiles on the situation of women and institutionalize statistical booklets on women and men. • Integrating paid and unpaid work into national policies: aims at developing methodologies to measure and value paid and unpaid work through a series of technical meetings and pilot projects. • Application of information technology to population data: developing guidelines, recommendations and pilot studies, and disseminating the experience to the countries through various means, particularly the Internet. • The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), statistical training arm of ESCAP, organizes regional group training courses as well as country courses.
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	Gender statistics Vital statistics and civil registration National accounts Social indicators Employment	Western Asia	• Gender statistics project in the Arab countries aiming at the enhancement of country efforts to strengthen their capabilities in the production and dissemination of gender statistics; two regional training workshops, nine national workshops. • Training in the area of vital statistics and civil registration systems. • Regional workshops on national accounts and industrial and construction statistics; several national workshops and provision of advisory services to build capacity to implement the 1993 SNA. • Planned expert group meeting on social indicators. • Planned workshop on economically active population: employment, unemployment and underemployment; expected to propose a minimum list of labour-force indicators for use by member States. • Planned workshop on links between balance of payments and the 1993 SNA.

Organization	*Areas of specialization*	*Countries*	*Activities*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Census of agriculture Food and agriculture statistics	Global Africa	• Regional and subregional workshops on the Programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2000 (WCA2000), crop forecasting and food balance sheets, supply utilization accounts, economic accounts for agriculture and food consumption statistics from household income-expenditure surveys. • At national level: data user-producer workshops, in-service training and group training in agricultural statistics. • Africa region: a joint initiative between FAO, the World Bank, the United States Department of Agriculture and participating countries to strengthen national systems of food and agricultural statistics.
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Labour-force survey Informal sector survey Child labour survey	Global: 34 countries received technical cooperation support	• Concentration on the promotion of the new recommendations adopted and guidelines endorsed by the sixteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.[a] • Assistance provided in the areas of labour-market information, informal sector surveys and labour-force surveys. • Newly developed survey methodology to probe into the work of children, used to assist several countries in conducting child labour-force surveys; new project entitled "Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC)".[b]
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Monetary and finance statistics Government finance statistics Balance of payments National accounts	Global	• Provision of advisory services to Governments and support of country projects in monetary and finance statistics and national accounts. • Regional workshops to support the implementation of the Special Data Dissemination Standard and General Data Dissemination Standard. • Provision of training courses for statisticians from developing countries at regional training centres.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	General statistics	Global	• At the end of 1999, there were 106 interventions in the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) sector "General statistics" funded from all resources (regular resources and cost-sharing to regular resources and trust funds); total budgeted resources: $70,087,292 (average size per intervention: $661,201); sectoral distribution of interventions: demographic and social statistics (57), economic statistics (33) and other statistics (16). • Other types of activities: reinforcement of the process of preparing national human development reports, building capacity in government departments and ministries, strengthening the gathering of local-level statistics and developing statistics in such areas as poverty and gender for monitoring purposes.
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Education Science and technology Culture Communication	Global Sub-Saharan Africa Cameroon Central African	• Plays key role in the Education for All (EFA) Year 2000 Assessment, especially in the building of national capacities to continue monitoring EFA progress. • World Education Indicators programme extended to more countries: six countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia have been provided with direct

Organization	*Areas of specialization*	*Countries*	*Activities*
		Republic	technical assistance in developing national education indicators systems and publishing national education indicators publications.
		Côte d'Ivoire	
		Lao's People Democratic Republic	• Regional training workshops on education statistics being organized in nine regions of the world. Côte d'Ivoire and Togo were provided with technical assistance in building statistical information systems in education finance. UNESCO cooperated with the Union for African Population Studies and the French Centre for Population and Development (CEPED) in disseminating a "Guide to analysis of education data collected during demographic censuses and surveys", and is currently updating it in collaboration with these bodies and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
		Mali	
		Togo	
		Viet Nam	
		Yemen	• Provides technical support to a World Bank-financed educational management information system project in Yemen and a Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)-financed book sector survey project in Mongolia.
		Mongolia	
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Population and housing census	Global	• Plays an important role in strengthening national capacity in the area of population statistics. In particular, the Fund has provided support to countries in undertaking their census and in many regions has played a crucial role in the implementation of the 2000 round of censuses.
	Population surveys		
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)	Population and housing census	Global	• Development account projects in the CARICOM and ASEAN countries: to strengthen capacity for producing the data needed to monitor the recent international conferences; project areas: environment, gender, information technology, national accounts, development indicators, and issues on management of statistical organizations.
	Gender statistics	Caribbean Community (CARICOM)	
	Environment statistics		
	Information technology	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	• Regional projects in Central Asia (including Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan) and in SADC: UNFPA-financed; technical support in census management, design of census questionnaires, data processing, census data evaluation, data dissemination and sample design.
	National accounts		
	Development indicators	Central Asia	
	Statistical organizations	Southern African Development Community (SADC)	• Series of training workshops in close cooperation with regional commissions.
	Sample design		• Provision of advisory services in national accounts and computer systems.
			• Provision of technical backstopping to national statistical projects.
		Support for 20 country projects	
World Health Organization (WHO)	Mortality, cause of death, disability	Global	• Global Programme on Evidence for Health Policy: focused activities on conceptual issues centring around summary measures of population health and in promoting the application of burden-of-disease methods; developed new recommendations about the construction and use of summary measures of population health.
			• Training in the application of these principles, including the collection of data to construct disability-adjusted life expectancy and disability-adjusted life years, to be extended to include statistical methods systems, including national health accounts.

Organization	*Areas of specialization*	*Countries*	*Activities*
			• Provision of training the implementation of the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) focused on the production of cause-of-death data; support for countries in the evaluation and reorientation of cause-of-death data systems, starting with China and the United Republic of Tanzania.
World Bank	National accounts Statistical organizations Survey on living conditions Dissemination of statistical data	Countries in transition India Latin America and the Caribbean Africa	• Statistical projects in countries in transition; new projects for India and Ukraine are under preparation; projects in the Russian Federation and India, entailing the comprehensive development and restructuring of the State statistical system, will cover all aspects of statistical reform, and will be financed by self-standing sectoral investment loans from the World Bank. • Global Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity-building established in 1999; fund should provide the needed flexibility for addressing statistical problems and for preparing required technical assistance programs; it is envisaged that the fund will provide an environment within the Bank and in the development community for better coordination of statistical capacity-building projects. • Regionally oriented programmes: (a) Latin America and the Caribbean (Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, and United Nations-ECLAC collaboration) Regional Programme of Technical Assistance for Improving the Surveys of Living Conditions (ISLC/MECOVI); (b) Africa: Africa Statistical Best Practice Programme, to promote and disseminate new approaches in the organization and management of statistical services, and in the collection, storage and dissemination of statistical information. • World Bank and IMF in connection with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) initiative are supporting the efforts of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) to effect the upgrading of their statistical capacity, which will in turn enable them to gather and analyse the socio-economic data required for preparing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and planning effective action to reduce poverty.

[a] The Conference adopted three resolutions and endorsed two sets of guidelines: see Sixteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians: report of the Conference (Geneva, International Labour Office, 1998) (ICLS/16/1998/V), pp. 12-14 and 49-80.

[b] See *http://www.ilo.org/public/english/120stat/childlab/index.htm* and/or *http://www.ilo.org/public/english/120stat/childlab/childlab.htm*.

Annex III

Union of selected core indicator sets*

Topics/indicators	*MNSDS*[a]	*OECD/DAC-United Nations-WB*[b]	*UNDAF/CCA*[c]	*BSSA*[d]	*CSD*[e]
1. Population and population growth					
Estimated population size by age and sex[f]	X				
Total population[g]		X	X	X	
Total fertility rate		X	X		
Population growth rate					X
Population of urban formal and informal settlements					X
2. Health and mortality					
Life expectancy at birth	X	X	X	X	X
Under-five mortality rate	X	X	X	X	X
Proportion of population with access to primary health care services			X	X	X
Infant mortality rate	X	X	X	X	
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) adult prevalence rate			X		
HIV prevalence in pregnant women aged 15-24 years[h]		X	X		
Mortality and morbidity due to selected key illnesses					X
3. Reproductive health					
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	X	X	X	X	
Contraceptive prevalence rate	X	X	X	X	X
Percentage of births attended by appropriately trained health/skilled personnel		X	X		
4. Food security and nutrition					
Percentage of household income spent on food			X		
Percentage of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption			X		
Proportion/prevalence of underweight children[i]		X	X	X	X
5. Education					
Adult literacy rate		X	X	X	X

* Several of the indicators in this presentation are specified by sex in the different sets. However, classification by sex should be applied to all indicators, where feasible.

Topics/indicators	*MNSDS*[a]	*OECD/DAC-United Nations-WB*[b]	*UNDAF/CCA*[c]	*BSSA*[d]	*CSD*[e]
Net primary enrolment ratio		X	X		
Percentage reaching grade 5/completion of grade 4		X	X		
Average number of years of schooling completed[j]	X				X
Literacy rate of those aged 15-24 years[k]		X	X		
6. Gender equality and women's empowerment					
Percentage of seats held by women in national government, including parliament			X		
Percentage of paid employees who are women			X		
Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education combined[l]		X	X	X	
Ratio of average female wage to male wage					X
7. Child's health/welfare					
Percentage of one-year-old children immunized against measles[m]			X		X
Percentage of children under age 15 living outside their own home					X
Percentage of children aged 10-14 years who are in employment			X		
8. Employment					
Unemployment rate	X		X		X
Informal sector employment as percentage of total employment			X		
Employment-population ratio[n]	X		X		
9. Income and poverty					
Household income per capita (level and distribution)	X				
Poverty headcount ratio (percentage of population below national poverty line)			X		X
Poverty headcount ratio (percentage below $1 a day)		X	X		
Poverty gap ratio		X	X		
Monetary value of the minimum food basket[o]	X				
Poorest fifth's share of national consumption		X	X		
Gini index of income inequality					X

Topics/indicators	*MNSDS*[a]	*OECD/DAC-United Nations-WB*[b]	*UNDAF/CCA*[c]	*BSSA*[d]	*CSD*[e]
10. Housing and basic household amenities and facilities					
Percentage of population with access to adequate sanitation[p]	X		X	X	X
Percentage of population with access to safe drinking water	X	X	X	X	X
Number of persons per room, excluding bathroom[q]	X		X	X	X
11. Environment					
Arable land per capita [r]			X		X
Percentage change in forest land area in the last 10 years			X		
Percentage of the population that relies on traditional fuels for energy use			X		
Countries with national sustainable development strategies		X			X
Intensity of freshwater use		X			
Biodiversity: land area protected		X	X		X
Energy efficiency: gross domestic product (GDP) per unit of energy use[s]		X	X		X
Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita)		X	X		
Forest area as percentage of land area		X			X
Mangrove areas		X			
Urban air pollution		X			X
Intensity of material use					X
Annual energy consumption per capita					X
Share of consumption of renewable energy resources					X
Generation of industrial and municipal solid waste					X
Generation of hazardous waste					X
Generation of radioactive waste					X
Waste recycling and reuse					X
Distance travelled per capita, by mode of transport					X
Emissions of greenhouse gases					X
Consumption of ozone depleting substances					X
Use of fertilizers					X
Use of agricultural pesticides					X
Wood harvesting intensity					X
Land affected by desertification					X

Topics/indicators	*MNSDS*[a]	*OECD/DAC-United Nations-WB*[b]	*UNDAF/CCA*[c]	*BSSA*[d]	*CSD*[e]
Area of urban formal and informal settlements					X
Algae concentration in coastal areas					X
Total population in coastal areas					X
Annual fish catch by major species					X
Annual withdrawal of ground water and surface water as percentage of total available water					X
Oxygen demand in water bodies					X
Concentration of faecal coliform in freshwater					X
Area of selected key ecosystems					X
Abundance of selected key species					X
12. Drug control and crime prevention					
Area under cultivation of coca, opium, poppy and cannabis			X		
Number of crimes per 100,000 inhabitants[f]			X		X
Prevalence of drug abuse			X		
Seizures of illicit drugs			X		
13. Economics					
Total gross national product (GNP)		X			
GNP or GDP per capita[g]	X	X	X		X
External debt (United States dollars) as percentage of GNP		X	X		X
Decadal growth rate of GNP per capita (United States dollars)			X		
Gross domestic savings as percentage of GDP			X		
Investment as percentage of GDP		X			X
Trade as percentage of GDP[v]		X	X		
Aid as percentage of GNP		X			X
Share of foreign direct investment (FDI) in GDP			X		
Percentage of public expenditures on social services					
Balance of trade in goods and services					X
14. Institutional capacity					
Implementation of ratified global agreements					X
Number of radios or Internet accounts per 1,000 inhabitants					X

Topics/indicators	MNSDS[a]	OECD/DAC-United Nations-WB[b]	UNDAF/CCA[c]	BSSA[d]	CSD[e]
Main telephone lines and cellphones per 1,000 inhabitants					X
Expenditure on research and development as percentage of GDP					X
Economic and human loss due to natural disasters					X

[a] Minimum National Social Data Set (see E/CN.3/1999/14).
[b] Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC)-United Nations-World Bank indicators for international development goals (http://www.oecd.org/dac/indicators/htm/list.htm).
[c] United Nations Development Group, "Guidelines: common country assessment", final draft, 31 March 1999, annex A, box A (Conference indicators) and box C (Contextual indicators). The framework also contains some qualitative indicators on governance and civil and political rights.
[d] Basic Social Services for All (BSSA) Indicators (Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Task Force on Basic Social Services for All.
[e] Indicators for sustainable development proposed by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD); this framework is currently under revision and will be finalized at the ninth session of the Commission in 2001.
[f] MNSDS: where appropriate and feasible, by ethnic group.
[g] United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF): by age, to identify target groups.
[h] OECD: use Adult rate if data not available; UNDAF: HIV prevalence in pregnant women under age 25 who receive antenatal care in capital cities/major urban areas.
[i] UNDAF: children under age 5 underweight, stunted and wasted; Commission on Sustainable Development: nutrition status of children.
[j] MNSDS: by urban/rural and, where possible, by income class; Commission on Sustainable Development: secondary or primary school completion ratio.
[k] OECD: in addition, ratio of literate females to males.
[l] UNDAF: only secondary education.
[m] Commission on Sustainable Development: immunization against infectious childhood diseases.
[n] MNSDS: where appropriate, by formal and informal sector.
[o] MNSDS: food needed for minimum nutritional requirement.
[p] Commission on Sustainable Development: percentage of population with adequate sewage disposal facilities.
[q] UNDAF: if data are not available, floor area per person.
[r] Commission on Sustainable Development: arable and permanent crop land area.
[s] Commission on Sustainable Development: intensity of energy use.
[t] Commission on Sustainable Development: number of reported crimes per 1,000 population.
[u] UNDAF: United States dollars and purchasing power parities (PPPs).
[v] UNDAF: share of exports in GDP.